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## **NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT PERFORMANCE SCORE SHOWS IMPROVEMENT**

*The District School Performance Score improved and nearly three out of four NOLA Public Schools received a progress index score of “A” or “B”*

**NEW ORLEANS – (November 6, 2019)** – Today, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) released the 2019 School Performance Scores (SPS), revealing an increase in NOLA Public School’s district performance score. Additionally, 74 percent of NOLA Public Schools continued to receive a high letter grade for academic growth, of either “A” or “B”, for the 2018-2019 school year. These accomplishments result in the school system maintaining a “C” letter grade for performance overall.

"While there is work to be done and continued progress that must be made, these school performance results indicate our school system is growing stronger every year," said **NOLA Public Schools Superintendent of Schools Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.** "The improvement in our district performance comes just after one year under local control and is a testament to the hard work of our local educators, and most importantly our students who are striving for success beyond high school graduation every day. I am also extremely proud of our local alternative schools that are ranked among the highest performing in the state this year under a new rating system which now helps draw attention to the growth and achievement of all our students citywide."

The 2019 SPS results shared by the LDOE summarize the cumulative impact of our local schools and data released over the summer months, specifically showing:

- **The district improved its overall score.** NOLA Public Schools saw an increase in its District Performance Score (DPS) of 1.6 points, increasing from 66.2 to 67.8, therefore maintaining its overall letter grade of “C”. NOLA Public Schools was one of only 29 districts across the state to see such an increase.
- **The number of students attending “A” and “B” schools has increased across the district.** In 2019, 26 percent of NOLA Public School students attended “A” and “B” schools compared to 24 percent in 2018.
- **The system’s improvement is driven by the overall success of our high schools.** NOLA Public Schools saw significant improvement system-wide in its Graduation Rate and Strength of Diploma indices. The Graduation Rate index increased from 65.6 to 86.4 and the Strength of Diploma increased from 84.5 to 89.6. The Strength of Diploma index showcases how the district’s high schools are preparing students for college and career by measuring AP exams, earning industry-based credentials and completing TOPS aligned college coursework.

- **Students in NOLA Public Schools continue to make meaningful progress year over year.** 74% percent of NOLA Public Schools received progress letter grades of “A” or “B”.
- **Local alternative schools are recognized as being among the state’s best.** All NOLA-PS alternative schools ranked within the top 10 alternative schools statewide. Notably, The NET Charter High School is the second ranked site in the state, and the Travis Hill School at the Youth Study Center is ranked fourth in the state. Of particular note, the Travis Hill School, which serves incarcerated youth, was one of only six alternative schools statewide to earn a “B” on the Progress index. These grades showcase the positive impact our alternative programs are having with students in New Orleans.

School	2019 Letter Grade New Alternative Formula	2019 SPS New Alternative Formula	2019 State Rank	2018 Letter Grade Traditional Formula	2018 SPS Traditional Formula
The NET Charter High School	C	70.5	2	F	29
Youth Study Center	C	69.9	4	F	24
The NET 2 Charter High School	C	63.7	7	F	22
ReNEW Accelerated High School	C	62	9	F	18.6

- **The district saw an increase in the number of schools earning letter grades of “B”.** While the district maintained the same amount of “A” rated schools between the 2018 and 2019 results, two schools improved to earn letter grades of “B”, specifically Bricolage Academy and Sophie B. Wright Charter School. Rosenwald Collegiate Academy received its inaugural letter grade from the LDOE which was also a “B”.
- **Several schools have been recognized for their outstanding impact with student growth and helping historically disadvantaged students excel.** Ten NOLA Public Schools received Top Gains Honoree recognition and 11 schools were named Equity Honorees. The Travis Hill school was recognized as the only equity honoree among alternative schools in Louisiana.

2019 NOLA Public Schools Top Gains Honorees	2019 NOLA Public Schools Equity Honorees
Edward Hynes Charter School	Warren Easton Charter School
Esperanza Charter School	Edward Hynes Charter School
KIPP Renaissance	Abramson Sci Academy
Benjamin Franklin High School	Benjamin Franklin High School
Alice M. Harte Elementary Charter School	Alice M. Harte Elementary Charter School
Lusher Charter School	Edna Karr High School
Lake Forest Elementary Charter School	Lusher Charter School
McDonogh 42	Lake Forest Elementary Charter School
Rosenwald Collegiate Academy	New Orleans Charter Science and Mathematics HS
Dwight D. Eisenhower Charter School	Dwight D. Eisenhower Charter School
	The Travis Hill School at the Youth Study Center

While the district’s overall school performance did increase, the newly released data underscores the need for local schools to improve their impact, especially among K-8 schools, where some schools did experience decline. Specifically, six schools dropped to a letter grade of “F” between the 2018 and 2019 school years. Schools that are rated “F” have already been visited by the administration, and district staff

will continue to monitor progress and assess what supports may be needed to help improve performance. Two schools previously rated “F” in 2018, Landry-Walker High School and Robert Russa Moton Charter School, did improve in 2019 to receive letter grades of “C” and “D” respectively.

“As a district, we must focus on retaining great teachers and supporting them in using high-quality instructional materials designed to help students meet the rigor of new state assessments and standards,” **said Dr. Henderson Lewis, Jr.** “My administration met with school leaders this fall to discuss how they can move forward given the testing results received this summer. Our joint goal is to improve academic achievement and together we are focused on ensuring our educators have the resources they need to help students thrive.”

Every year, schools and school systems in Louisiana receive report cards with school performance scores and corresponding A-F letter grades. The report cards, which can be viewed on the online [Louisiana School Finder](#), communicate how well schools are preparing students for the next grade level by examining student performance measures, like how students score on state assessments, how many students are graduating each year or how many students are earning early college credit.

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**ABOUT NOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** NOLA Public Schools is the public school district for Orleans Parish, which includes the district’s elected school board, known as the Orleans Parish School Board and the district’s administration led by NOLA Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Henderson Lewis Jr. NOLA Public Schools currently oversees 78 public schools. For more information, visit [www.nolapublicschools.com](http://www.nolapublicschools.com). For updates, follow NOLA Public Schools on [Facebook](#) @NOLAPublicSchools, [Instagram](#) @nolaps and [Twitter](#) @NOLAPSchools